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Statement of the Honorable Duncan Hunter Chairman, Subcommittee on Military Procurement

Information Superiority Hearing

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Timely and accurate information during military operations, especially in battle, is and always has been a fundamental requirement of any commander's operation. As advanced lethal and non-lethal U.S. weapon systems are fielded and potential adversaries gain access to advanced technologies and improved systems, dominance of the information spectrum will likely become the ultimate factor in winning future wars. It is and will be necessary to gain and maintain control of the information spectrum for situational awareness, precise targeting and seamless, secure, dynamic communications. The access to and disciplined management of information may be the most critical component of tactical advantage that our military leaders and national command authority use to determine the successful outcome of future military operations.

I am aware of and encouraged by several experimental efforts underway to rapidly field commercial technologies to exploit the information spectrum and provide the necessary tools for our military leaders to dominate the battlespace in the 21st century. The Army's Force XXI Advanced Warfighting Exercise and the Marine Corps' Sea Dragon program are two of these initiatives.

Nevertheless, as we field new weapon systems and the key Command, Control, Communications, Computer and Intelligence (C4I) networks that will tie these systems, warfighters and decision makers together with the same picture, I am concerned about several issues:

- 1) a need for a clear and realistic set of parameters within DoD to ensure interoperability among unique C4I networks being developed by the services and other new and legacy systems and networks within DoD;
- 2) an ability to rapidly field the systems that have provided tangible results from the ongoing experiments for use by our troops; and,

3) perhaps most importantly, vulnerability to information age challenges, such as, network intrusions, viruses, and “spoofing,” or to security breeches resulting from the “open architecture” under which these systems are being developed.

I believe it is also important to ensure that our forces do not become so dependent on information systems for Command and Control and situational awareness on the battlefield that they become totally overwhelmed in the event we lose control of the information spectrum.

I hope to gain a better understanding from today’s witnesses of how we are progressing on these important and complex initiatives and I look forward to their testimony today.